In the claims:

1. In a radio communication system having a mobile station operable to communicate by way of a first network pursuant to a first-network communication service subscription, the first network operable pursuant to a first communication-standard protocol and the first network coupled to a second network, the second network operable pursuant to a second communication standard protocol, an improvement of apparatus for facilitating invocation of a second-network service, resident at a second-network service control point, by the mobile station, said apparatus comprising:

a bridge mechanism coupled to receive a first-network-generated request for invocation of the second-network service by the mobile station, said bridge mechanism at least for selectably initiating authorization of the mobile station to involve the second-network service.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first network comprises a legacy network, wherein the second network comprises a new network and the second-network service comprises a new-network service, the new network service unavailable at the legacy network, and wherein the request to which said bridge mechanism is coupled to receive comprises a first communication-standard protocol message.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said bridge mechanism comprises a first communication-standard protocol message detector, said first communication-standard protocol message detector for detecting the first communication-standard protocol message that requests the invocation of the second-network service.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said bridge mechanism further comprises a second communication-standard, protocol-request message generator for generating a second communication standard protocol-request message for communication to the second-network service control point to request invocation of the second-network service by the mobile station.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said bridge mechanism further comprises a second communication-standard, protocol-response message detector for detecting a second communication-standard protocol-response message generated by the second-network service control point and returned to said bridge mechanism.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said bridge mechanism further comprises a first communication standard, protocol-response message generator coupled to receive indications of detection by said second communication-standard, protocol-response message detector of the second communication-standard protocol-response message, said first communication-standard protocol-response message generator for generating a first communication standard-protocol response message indicative of a value of the second communication-standard protocol response message.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said bridge mechanism comprises a first functional part functionally operable pursuant to the first communication-standard protocol and a second functional part functionally operable pursuant to the second communication-standard protocol.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the radio communication station comprises a cellular communication system, wherein the first network is constructed pursuant to a communication standard that defines a media gateway and wherein the first functional part comprises media gateway functionality.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the second network is constructed pursuant to a communication standard that defines a softswitch and wherein the second functional part comprises softswitch functionality.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the second-network service comprises a prepaid calling service and wherein the request for the invocation of the second-network service to which said bridge mechanism is coupled to receive comprises a request for the invocation of the prepaid calling service.

11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first network comprises a registry at which service-subscription information associated with the mobile station is stored, the service-subscription information including an indication of association of the mobile station with the second-network service, and wherein the request for invocation of the second-network service to which said bridge mechanism is provided thereto subsequent to access to the service-subscription information stored at the registry.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the request for the invocation of the second-network service is detected by the first functional part of said bridge mechanism.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the authorization selectably initiated by said bridge mechanism is provided by the second functional part of said bridge mechanism.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the authorization selectably initiated by the second functional part of said bridge mechanism comprises a second-communication-standard protocol-formatted request routable by the second functional part to the second-network service control point.

15. In a method for communicating in a radio communication system having a mobile station operable to communicate by way of a first network pursuant to a first-network communication service subscription, the first network operable pursuant to a first communication-standard protocol and the first network coupled to a second network, the second network operable pursuant to a second communication-standard protocol, an improvement of a method for facilitating invocation of a second-network service, resident at a second-network service control point, by the mobile station, said method comprising:

generating a first-communication-standard protocol message at the first network to request invocation of the second-network service by the mobile station; and

generating a second-communication-standard protocol message responsive to the first-communication-station standard protocol message generated during said operation of generating the first-communication-standard protocol message, the second-communication-standard protocol message generated at the second network and representative of the request for the invocation of the second-network service by the mobile station.

16. The method of claim 15 comprising the further operations of:

routing the second-communication-standard protocol message to the second-network service control point; and

selectably granting the request for the invocation of the second-network service subsequent to delivery of the second-communication-standard protocol message to the second-network service control point.

17. The method of claim 16 comprising the further operation of:

generating a grant message at the second-network service control point, the grant message formatted pursuant to the second communication standard protocol.

18. The method of claim 17 comprising the further operation of:

converting the grant message into a second-communication-standard protocol-formatted message.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the first network comprises a legacy network and the second network comprises a new network, wherein the second-network service comprises a new-network service unavailable at the legacy network, and wherein the first-communication-standard protocol message generated during said operation of generating the first-communication-standard protocol message requests invocation of the new-network service by the mobile station operable pursuant to the legacy network.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the first-communication-standard message is provided to a bridge mechanism bridging the first network and the second network, and wherein the second-communication-standard protocol message is generated by the bridge mechanism.